

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The pending claims 11-24 are set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (previously amended) or (currently amended). Please AMEND claims 11, 14 and 24 in accordance with the following:

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C1 } 11. (currently amended) An optical communication unit provided in an apparatus for  
executing communication with a communicating partner by using optical signals, the optical  
communication unit comprising:

a light emitting section to transmit an optical signal to said apparatus;

a light receiving section to receive an optical signal from said apparatus;

a ~~frame~~ an optical module to house said light emitting section and said light receiving  
section;

a first converging lens attached to said ~~frame~~ optical module, to converge the optical  
signal transmitted by said light emitting section and to transmit the converged optical signal to  
said apparatus;

a second converging lens attached to said ~~frame~~ optical module, to converge the optical  
signal transmitted by said apparatus and to transmit the converged optical signal to said light  
receiving section; and

a shielding section to optically shield light between said first converging lens and said  
second converging lens.

12. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 11,  
further comprising:

a connecting section with an optical cable unit, wherein said optical communication unit  
transmits and receives optical signals to and from said apparatus via said optical cable unit.

13. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 11,  
further comprising:

an optical filter to cut off a visual light on a light path of the optical signal from said  
apparatus to said light receiving section, and the optical signal from said light emitting section to  
said apparatus.

14. (currently amended) An optical communication unit provided between two

apparatuses that perform optical communication with each other, the optical communication unit transmitting and receiving optical signals from and to said apparatuses, the optical communication unit comprising:

a connector connected to any one of said apparatuses;

a signal transmitting/receiving section including a light receiving section to receive an optical signal from said one of said apparatuses, and a light emitting section to transmit an optical signal to said one of said apparatuses;

an optical cable to transmit the optical signal to and from said light receiving section and said light emitting section; and

~~a frame to house~~ an optical module to accommodate one end of said optical cable and to house said signal transmitting/receiving section, and including at least one window to pass the optical signal from said one of said apparatuses to said light receiving section, and to pass the optical signal from said light emitting section to said one of said apparatuses.

15. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 14, wherein said optical cable has a pair of paths to transmit and receive optical signals from and to said one of said apparatuses, respectively.

16. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 15, further comprising:

a shielding section to prevent incidence of an optical signal from said light emitting section to said light receiving section.

17. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 14, further comprising:

a first converging lens to converge an optical signal from said one of said apparatuses and transmit the optical signal into said optical cable; and

a second converging lens to converge an optical signal transmitted through said optical cable and transmit the optical signal to said one of said apparatuses.

18. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 14, wherein said light receiving section has a first modulating/demodulating section to receive an optical signal transmitted from said one of said apparatuses and convert the optical signal to an

electric signal, and also to demodulate said electric signal to an optical signal and transmit the optical signal into said optical cable; and

said light emitting section has a second modulating/demodulating section to receive the optical signal transferred through said optical cable and to convert the optical signal to an electric signal, and also to demodulate said electric signal to an optical signal and transmit the optical signal to said one of said apparatuses.

19. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 14, further comprising:

a converging lens arranged in light paths of the optical signal from said one of said apparatuses to said light receiving section and the optical signal from said light emitting section to said one of said apparatuses.

20. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 14, wherein said light receiving section has a circuit that changes an available area thereof according to a communication speed of an optical signal.

21. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 14, wherein said light receiving section has a circuit that changes an available area thereof according to a transmission distance of an optical signal.

22. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 14, further comprising:

a converging lens arranged in light paths of the optical signal from said one of said apparatuses to said light receiving section and the optical signal from said light emitting section to said one of said apparatuses,

wherein said light receiving section and said light emitting section are integrated to each other.

23. (previously amended) An optical communication unit according to claim 14, wherein said light receiving section and said light emitting section are realized with one lens.

24. (currently amended) An optical communication unit provided in an apparatus and

having a light transceiver section to transmit/receive an optical signal to and from the apparatus for executing communication with a communication device, the optical communication unit comprising:

a ~~frame~~ an optical module to house the light transceiver section;

a first converging lens attached to the ~~frame~~ optical module, to converge the optical signal transmitted by the light transceiver section and to transmit the converged optical signal to the apparatus; and

a second converging lens attached to the ~~frame~~ optical module, to converge the optical signal transmitted by the apparatus and to transmit the converged optical signal to the light transceiver section.